

CHARITY & ITS FRUITS

Review-**Sermon 1**-“**Love the Sum of all Virtue**”-1 Cor. 13:1-3

“Charity we find _____ insisted on in the New Testament by Christ and His apostles. And indeed there is no virtue so much insisted on by them.”

The word “_____” is to be understood as the word “love.”

Edwards then will focus on the main principle taught by the Apostle in these first verses:

-Those things which men are prone to _____ in are nothing without love. Humans often boast in their knowledge, their works (and what greater work can there be than to give all you have to the poor), and their great faith.

-The love that the Apostle teaches on here is specifically _____ love. A love that comes from God and a love that has God as its object.

The doctrine that we can glean from such understanding is this: **“All that virtue which is saving, and distinguishing of true Christians from others, is summed up in Christian or divine love.”**

“By the Apostle mentioning so many and so great things, and then saying of them all that they profit nothing without charity, we may understand that there is nothing which avails anything without it. Let men have what he will, and let him do what he will, it signifies nothing without charity...it (love) is the _____ and _____ of all religion...”

“The Spirit of God is a spirit of love. And therefore when the Spirit of God enters into the soul, love enters...the _____ of the Holy Spirit is love; and it is by communicating Himself, or His own nature, that the hearts of the saints are filled with love or charity. Hence the saints are said to be ‘partakers of the divine nature’ (2 Peter 1:4).”

“Christian love to both God and men is wrought in the heart by the _____ work of the Spirit.”

“When God is loved aright He is loved for His excellency, the _____ of His nature, especially the holiness of His nature. And it is from the same motive that the saints are loved; they are for holiness’ sake...Love to God is the foundation of a gracious love to men.”

“That love will dispose to all proper acts of _____ to both God and men.”

“Love destroys enmity...love has not bitterness in it. It is altogether a _____ disposition and affection of the soul. Love will prevent broils and quarrels, and will dispose to peaceableness. Love will dispose men to forgive injuries, which they receive from their neighbors.”

“Thus love would dispose to _____ duties, both towards God and towards men. And if love will dispose of all duties, then it follows that love is a root and spring...of all virtues.”

“Love is centered in a _____ and _____ faith, and it is the proper life and soul of it, without which faith is dead, as the body is without the spirit; and that it is the most distinguishing thing of saving faith from other faiths.”

“Love appears to be the sum of all virtue and duty which God requires of us; and therefore must undoubtedly be the _____ essential thing, or the sum of all that virtue which is essential and distinguishing in real Christianity.”

“Do we _____ in God, and rejoice in His worship, and in magnifying His holy name? This love, also, leads those who possess it sincerely to desire and earnestly to endeavor to do good to their fellow man.”

Review-**Sermon 2**-“**Love More Excellent Than Extraordinary Gifts of the Spirit**”-1 Cor. 13:1-2

“The ordinary influences of God’s Spirit, working saving grace in the heart, is a more _____ blessing than any of the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit.”

“And here I would observe that divines are wont to make a twofold distinction of the gifts and operations of the Spirit, viz. into _____ and _____, and ordinary and extraordinary.”

“To show that though these are great privileges (the extraordinary gifts), yet that the ordinary influences of the Spirit of God working grace in the heart is a far _____ privilege than any of them; a greater privilege than the spirit of prophecy, or the gift of tongues, or working miracles even to the moving of mountains; a greater blessing than all those miraculous gifts which Moses, and Elijah, and Daniel, and the twelve apostles were endued with.”

Edwards lists nine reasons why the ordinary gifts of the Spirit are superior to the extraordinary

Reason 1: “This blessing of the saving grace of God is a quality inherent in the _____ of him who is the subject of it.”

Reason 2: “The Spirit of God communicates _____ much more in bestowing those extraordinary gifts.”

Reason 3: “The spiritual image of God does not consist in having a power to work miracles, and foretell future events; but it consists in our being _____, as God is holy...”

Reason 4: “The grace of God in the heart is a gift of the Holy Ghost peculiar to the _____. It is a blessing which God reserves only for those who are the objects of His special and peculiar love.”

Reason 5: “Grace which is the effect of the ordinary gift of the Spirit is infinitely greater blessing than the extraordinary, since it carries _____ life in it.”

Reason 6: “Man’s highest _____ consists in holiness. It is by this the reasonable creature is united to God, the fountain of all good.”

Reason 7: “God gave such gifts as prophecy, and the working of miracles, and speaking with tongues to the end to promote and establish _____ religion and propagate the gospel.”

Reason 8: “The extraordinary gifts of the Spirit will be so far from profiting without that grace, which is the effect of the ordinary gifts of the Spirit, that it will but aggravate the _____ of those who have them.”

Reason 9: “Another thing which shows the preferableness of the ordinary gifts of the Spirit to the extraordinary gifts is that one will _____, the others will not...Divine love will remain throughout eternity.”

“For by the doctrine we learn that the pouring out of the Spirit of God in His ordinary saving operations to fill men’s hearts with a Christian and holy temper, and leading them to the exercises of a divine life, is the most _____ way of pouring out the Spirit, more glorious than a pouring out of the extraordinary gifts of the Spirit.”